

NSC BRIEFING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

13 January 1960

CUBA

- I. Castro govt continues to take over lands and industries without legal notification or promise of compensation.
  - A. National Bank President Che Guevara continues to solidify his position in power by putting his own proteges in key economic posts.
- II. Four teams of Cuban diplomats and economists are now visiting over 30 African, Asian, Mediterranean and Latin American countries to discuss a proposed agenda for a "conference of hungry nations" which I told you last month Cuba is trying to promote.
  - A. Foreign Minister Raul Roa, in Cairo for the Aswan Dam inauguration, had three interviews with Nasir, whose government is already strengthening UAR-Cuban trade and political ties.
    1. It was announced to the press last night in Cairo that Castro and Nasir will exchange future visits.
  - B. Roa will also visit Morocco, Tunis, Libya, Yugoslavia, and Greece.
- III. The Communist-infiltrated Cuban Workers' Confederation announced on 11 January that it would invite Latin American labor organizations to meet in Havana in February to discuss plans for a congress at which a new "independent" LA labor federation would be formed.

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B. Such a federation was discussed by Latin American Communists attending the 21st Party Congress in Moscow as long ago as last February and was proposed by CTC officials in November 59 when their confederation withdrew from the Inter American Regional Organization of Workers, which is affiliated with ICFTU, Free Union.

IV. Meanwhile, recent developments indicate increasing Cuban contacts with Communist China, and we think Castro will probably recognize Peiping sometime this year.

A. Peiping also received a bargain price in a recent purchase of Cuban sugar (2.95 vs 3.02 cents). In keeping with <sup>Castro's</sup> ~~its~~ policy ~~initiated in 1959~~ of granting price discounts to bloc customers (but not to Free World purchasers), Cuba sold China 50,000 tons at 5 percent below the prevailing market price of \$66.00 per ton.

B. It is reported that 20 Chinese industrial and agricultural technicians--apparently requested by Defense Minister Raul Castro--would arrive in Cuba during January.

V. Soviet Exposition brought from Mexico City to open in Havana about 1 Feb.

A. USSR plans a simultaneous strong propaganda effort featuring films, concerts, and visits by leading Soviet cultural representatives.

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